

REMARKS

In the Office Action of November 24, 2009, claims 1 to 6, 9 and 10 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) from Cho (USPN 4,984,300) and claim 7 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) from Cho (USPN 4,984,300) in view of Pease (USPN 1,528,026).

As taught throughout the present application specification, the purpose of the hand utility interface of the present invention is to line the underside of the user's hand when carrying out routine utility tasks so that the user can clean, polish, sand, scrub et cetera with their hand able to fold in around the contours of the object of the utility task (car bonnet, shoe, table top et cetera) with the foam body acting as an interface between the underside of the hand and the object surface. For the avoidance of any doubt over the nature of the present invention as claimed, in our present claims we have amended Claim 1 to make it absolutely clear that our device is configured whereby the underside of the user's hand is retained against the foamed block body.

United States patent US4984300 (Cho) does not disclose a hand utility interface. It is a hand protective glove for use in physical contact sports such as karate. The glove of Cho does not conform to the underside of the user's hand but to the back of the user's hand. Its configuration does not enable its use as a hand utility interface. It is adapted to protectively cover and cushion the back of the user's hand to protect against harm to the user's knuckles when striking an opponent. Its form allows it to flex inwardly for the user to curl their hand into a fist and resiliently straighten again for them to straighten their hand for chopping blows. Cho's glove is not configured to line the underside of the user's hand to provide an interface between the underside of the user's hand and object surfaces for utility tasks such as cleaning, polishing, sanding et cetera. Its form, fitment configuration and designed flexure make it useful only as a glove for the back of the user's hand. Furthermore, the elastic band 37 in Cho that the Examiner equates to our resilient yoke palm support means is located over the fingers of the user, not their palm.

Pease (USPN 1,528,026) discloses a foam bath sponge and not a hand utility interface of the present invention and in view of the distinctions thereover and over Cho (USPN 4,984,300) does not render claim 7 obvious.

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Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection and of the §103 rejection in the previous Office Action are respectfully requested.

Applicant has made an earnest endeavor to place this application into condition for allowance, and favourable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

COOK ALEX LTD.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raymond M. Mehler', is written over a horizontal line.

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